

OLC 72-0329

14 MAR 1972

Mr. David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary of State for
Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Dave:

STATSPEC

The other day we asked [REDACTED] for a breakdown of international broadcasts by Communist countries. I think the results are rather revealing and I enclose a copy which you might find useful in discussing the RFE/RL problem on the Hill.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
John M. Maury
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

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INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Over the past year, with slight fluctuations from time to time, communist countries have transmitted abroad 6,830 hours of broadcasts weekly. A breakdown by country follows:

<u>USSR & EAST EUROPE</u>		<u>CHINA (PRC) & FAR EAST</u>	
USSR	1,904	PRC	1,304
Albania	480	Mongolia	20
Bulgaria	181	North Korea	358
Czechoslovakia	211	North Vietnam	<u>318</u>
East Germany	275		<u>2,000</u>
Hungary	104		
Poland	343		
Romania	193		
Yugoslavia	<u>76</u>	Cuba	366
	3,767		

LATIN AMERICA

In addition, communist clandestine radios--the South Vietnam "Liberation Radio," the "Voice of Truth" to Greece, the illegal Spanish Communist Party's "Radio Independent Spain" broadcasting from Romanian transmitters, and so forth--were on the air a total of 697 hours a week.

GRAND TOTAL: 6,830 hours a week.

The USSR broadcasts internationally in 84 languages, using as many as 105 shortwave transmitters during peak broadcast periods and broadcasting also on mediumwave wherever feasible. In Arabic, for example, the USSR broadcasts 53 hours a week (an effort complemented by 49 hours a week in Arabic from East Germany, 49½ hours from Albania, and 18½ hours from Bulgaria). The USSR broadcasts 150 hours weekly in English, the bulk of it to North America (66½ hours) and to Great Britain and Ireland (24½) but also to large areas of Africa and Asia.

Soviet transmitters are on the air a total of 171 hours a week to East European countries: Czechoslovakia has been a prime target since the 1968 invasion, with Moscow broadcasting 42 hours weekly in Czech and Slovak; 35 hours a week are aimed at Romania, also a major target because of its inclinations toward independent behavior in foreign affairs; lesser but substantial efforts are directed at other countries in the European theater--21 hours a week in Polish, for example.

Of the total hours broadcast weekly by the USSR, 144 hours are carried by the purportedly unofficial "Radio Peace and Progress." Announcements state that this radio is the "Voice of Soviet Public

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Opinion," sponsored by the Union of Journalists of the USSR, Soviet Friendship Societies, the Committee of Soviet Women, and other similar organizations. Utilizing frequencies also used by Radio Moscow's official international service, this radio broadcasts reportage and comment that does not always hew precisely to the official Soviet line--it may represent a more extreme or more provocative statement of the Soviet position or may cite radical noncommunist publications with which the USSR does not wish to associate itself officially. Broadcasts are in 13 languages, including Cantonese, Hebrew, Creole, and Guarani.

Taken together, the East European countries broadcast almost as many hours internationally each week as the USSR does. Some of these broadcasts are in the originating countries' native languages for emigres, ethnic groups, and workers abroad. In the case of Poland, which beams special broadcasts to Polish seamen, the native-language portion is high--101 hours a week. Budapest's 33½ hours weekly in Hungarian and Prague's 21 hours in Czech/Slovak are more typical. Target audiences otherwise are primarily in West Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Bulgaria, for example, broadcasts 21½ hours weekly in Greek, 10½ hours in Italian, and 22 hours in Turkish, among other languages. East Germany, in addition to the 49 hours weekly in Arabic noted above, broadcasts 70 hours a week in English, to various audiences in Europe, Africa, and North America, and 47 hours weekly in French, largely to Africa. Prague broadcasts in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, in a range of weekly broadcast hours from 14 to 49. Albania broadcasts more than 20 hours weekly in each of the national languages of the seven other East European countries.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

72-1459

13 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Maury

STATSPEC

1. You will recall that when Senator Symington 'phoned me the other day about Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, I, at one point in the conversation, pointed out to him that Moscow does a pretty good job of broadcasting on its own. I asked [redacted] for the attached material. It occurs to me you might want to give this paper to Dave Abshire or someone in State who is constantly dealing with Senators and Congressmen on this broadcasting problem. State might find the statistics useful.

2. As for Senator Symington himself, I do not see much point in focusing this material on him since he is pretty well committed to Senator Fulbright's point of view.

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[redacted]
Richard Helms
Director

Attachment - 1
International Broadcasting by
Communist Countries